

# Final Exam for PH601, Philosophy of Religion

## Taught by William A. Dembski, May 2013

*Please answer each of the following questions. Answer every part of each question. Be concise. This exam is **closed-book**. You may not consult any outside resources in completing it. You have **3 hours** from the time you start to finish the exam.*

1. Identify the following (give first and last name where applicable) [1 point each/10 points total/½ for only the last name]:
  - a. Author of the *Summa Theologiae*.
  - b. Author of *Natural Theology* (1802). In this book the author makes a famous watchmaker argument.
  - c. Author of *Dialogues concerning Natural Religion*.
  - d. Presented an ontological argument in his *Proslogion*.
  - e. Best known atheist in the English speaking world today.
  - f. Key present-day proponent of the kalam cosmological argument.
  - g. Best known advocate of reformed epistemology.
  - h. 18<sup>th</sup> century clergyman who developed a widely used approach to probabilistic reasoning.
  - i. American pragmatist philosopher who explored the will to believe.
  - j. Philosopher and mathematician who in the 18<sup>th</sup> century wrote *The Theodicy*.
  
2. In two or three sentences (not more than 100 words total), say something intelligent about each of the following, demonstrating that you are properly socialized into the discipline of philosophy of religion. At a minimum, though, briefly define or characterize the following and note their significance [3 points each/30 points total]:
  - a. miracles
  - b. reformed epistemology
  - c. naturalism
  - d. free will defense
  - e. middle knowledge
  - f. moral argument
  - g. ontological argument
  - h. Bayes' Theorem
  - i. modal logic
  - j. Pascal's wager
  
3. Briefly review the history of the design argument from antiquity to the present, indicating its changing fortunes during that time. [10 points]
  
4. Explain how you understand the relation between faith and reason. [10 points]

5. Explain the difference between the logical and evidential problem of evil. Defend Christian theism against both these aspects of the problem of evil. [10 points]
6. Nelson Pike argues that divine omniscience of future contingent events is incompatible with human voluntary action. Explain why you think Pike got it right and they are incompatible; or else explain why you think he got it wrong and they are compatible. [10 points]
7. Sketch the kalam cosmological argument, indicating both the philosophical arguments that historically it has used as well the recent support it has received from Big Bang cosmology. Evaluate the argument's cogency. [10 points]
8. A hardcore skeptic has a blog on which he asserts that religious language is vacuous. Thus, according to him, alleged claims about God are not really claims at all but are simply meaningless. How would you respond to such a blog post under "comments"? [10 points]